

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. **(Currently amended)** A method comprising:  
contacting a hepatitis C virus (HCV) NS4B nucleotide binding motif (NBM) polypeptide  
with a candidate agent; ~~and~~  
determining an effect of said candidate agent on a GTPase activity of said polypeptide;  
**and**  
**determining an effect of said candidate agent on replication of HCV.**
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises  
determining an effect of said candidate agent on nucleotide binding of said polypeptide.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises  
determining an effect of said candidate agent on RNA binding of said polypeptide.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said candidate agent is a nucleotide analog.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said nucleotide analog is a non-hydrolysable  
nucleotide.
8. (Canceled).
9. **(Currently amended)** The method of **claim 1** ~~claim 8~~, wherein said HCV is a  
subgenomic or full length HCV replicon.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~claim 8~~, further comprising wherein said method comprises determining an effect of said candidate agent on testing HCV replication in a huh7 cell.

11-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~claim 8~~, wherein said method comprises assaying said candidate agent on HCV replication in a liver cell line or primary liver cell.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said ~~aid~~ HCV is live virus or a replicon thereof.